

b.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for producing compressed tablets, comprising:

selecting powdered or granular material comprising an active compound which is denaturalized or inactivated when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton /cm²,

providing a spraying chamber housing a punch and a die,

generating pulsating vibration air,

spraying, within a spraying chamber, a lubricant admixed with said pulsating vibration air to apply the lubricant on surfaces of said punch and die,

mixing said powdered or granular material with a diluting agent to make a molding material, said molding material not containing said lubricant, and

compressing said molding material using said lubricated punch and said lubricated die surfaces at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² to produce compressed tablets,

wherein sprayed lubricant is incorporated in said tablets at an amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for producing compressed tablets, comprising:

selecting powdered or granular material containing a dispersed active agent, said active agent being a low molecule compound of which elution is delayed

when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm² or a high molecule compound which is decomposed or denaturalized when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm²,

providing a spraying chamber housing a punch and a die,

generating pulsating vibration air,

spraying, within said spraying chamber, a lubricant admixed said pulsating vibration air to apply the lubricant on surfaces of said punch and die,

mixing said powdered or granular material with said diluting agent to make a molding material, said molding material not containing said lubricant, and

compressing said molding material using said lubricated punch and die surfaces at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² to produce compressed tablets,

wherein the sprayed lubricant is incorporated in said tablets at an amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for producing compressed tablets, comprising:

selecting powdered or granular material comprising an active compound which is denaturalized or inactivated when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm²,

providing a spraying chamber housing a punch and a die,

applying lubricant on surfaces of said punch and die by spraying, within said spraying chamber, an admixture of the lubricant and positive pulsating

vibration air,

mixing said powdered or granular material with a diluting agent to make a molding material, said molding material not containing said lubricant, and

compressing said molding material using said lubricated punch and said lubricated die surfaces at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² to produce compressed tablets,

wherein the sprayed lubricant is incorporated in said tablets at an amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for producing compressed tablets, comprising:

selecting powdered or granular material containing a dispersed active agent, said active agent being a low molecule compound of which elution is delayed when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm² or a high molecule compound which is decomposed or denaturalized when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm²,

providing a spraying chamber housing a punch and a die,

applying the lubricant on surfaces of said punch and die by spraying, within said spraying chamber, an admixture of the lubricant and positive pulsating vibration air,

mixing said powdered or granular material with a diluting agent to make a molding material, said molding material not containing said lubricant, and

compressing said molding material using said lubricated punch and

said lubricated die surfaces at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² to produce compressed tablets,
wherein the sprayed lubricant is incorporated in said tablets at an
amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1 - 4,
wherein said lubricant is stearate acid metal salt.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1-4,
wherein said lubricated surface of said punch is provided with a projecting line that forms a
dividing line on said tablets.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to any of claims 1-4
wherein said pulsating vibration air is generated, said lubricant is admixed with said
pulsating vibration air, and said mixture of lubricant and pulsating vibration air is sprayed
into said spraying chamber simultaneously.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1- 4,
wherein said diluting agent is a saccharide.

10. (Currently Amended) A tablet comprising:

powdered or granular material including an active compound which is denaturalized or inactivated when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm², a diluting agent, and a lubricant,

said tablet having been compressed at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² and containing a tableting lubricant ~~substantially~~ only on ~~surfaces~~ a surface thereof and not within said tablet, said tableting lubricant being contained in an amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent, and

wherein the active compound in said tablet has higher activity than active compound in a tablet of same materials compressed at same pressure but which contains said lubricant within the tablet.

11. (Currently Amended) A tablet comprising:

(i) powdered or granular material containing a dispersed active agent, said active agent being a low molecule compound of which elution is delayed when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm² or a high molecule compound which is decomposed or denaturalized when compressed at a pressure greater than or equal to 1 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent, and (iii) a lubricant,

said tablet having been compressed at a pressure less than 1 ton/cm² and containing a tableting lubricant ~~substantially~~ only on ~~surfaces~~ a surface thereof and not within said tablet, said tableting lubricant being contained in an amount not less than 0.0001 weight percent and not greater than 0.2 weight percent, and

wherein the active compound in said tablet has higher activity than active compound in a tablet of the same materials compressed at same pressure but which contains said lubricant within the tablet.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The tablet as set forth in claim 10 or 11, wherein the tablet has a dividing line on a surface thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to any of claims 1-4, wherein said tablets have a hardness of at least 7kgf.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to either of claims 10 or 11, which have a hardness of at least 7kgf.

19. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to either of claims 10 or 11, wherein said tableting lubricant is stearate acid metal salt.